



OFFICE OF THE CHAIR

U.S. ELECTION ASSISTANCE COMMISSION
1225 NEW YORK AVENUE, N.W., SUITE 1100
WASHINGTON, D.C. 20005

March 10, 2009

The Honorable Debra Bowen
Secretary of State
1500 11th Street, 6th Floor
Sacramento, CA 95814

Dear Secretary Bowen:

Thank you for submitting your office's review of the Diebold/Premier GEMS version 1.18.19 voting system used in Humboldt County, California in the 2008 election. The information has been published in the Voting System Reports Clearinghouse and we have notified our stakeholders.

In your recent correspondence, you recommend that the Election Assistance Commission (EAC) establish an anomaly reporting process for the voting systems we certify. The EAC believes that such a process is important and, since 2006, has required manufacturers to report anomalies as a condition of registration for our Voting System Testing and Certification program. In addition to the manufacturers' reporting requirements, EAC will also collect information from election officials regarding anomalies encountered with EAC-certified voting systems. For your review and convenience, I have attached our Voting System Testing and Certification Manual which provides more information about these requirements.

I commend your desire and impressive work with California's voting certification program, as well as your transparent approach. The Commission looks forward to the information generated from your March 17, 2009 public hearing, and I encourage you to keep us apprised regarding any future action you may take regarding California's voting systems.

Thank you again for your participation in the EAC's Clearinghouse. Your office continues to share valuable information with the EAC, and I am confident that your contributions have benefited election officials throughout the country.

Sincerely,

Gleen Bresso Beach
Chair, U.S. Election Assistance Commission

